



From the NIFA Communications Office

NIFA in the News – Week of June 10, 2013

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In the News

Fitness program available for older Iowans (Creston News Advertiser 6/4). Iowa State University researchers have received new funding to evaluate an intergenerational exercise program for older adults in 21 rural Iowa counties, including Taylor County. The Living (well through) Intergenerational Fitness and Exercise (LIFE) program has been funded by the Rural Health and Safety Education Competitive program of the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The LIFE program introduces older adults to exergaming, video games that integrate game play with physical activity. [Link](#)

Rock Doc: Genomics might help defeat citrus disease (Spokesman-Review 6/10). Did you have a glass of orange juice this morning? If so, you may want to know that the simple pleasures brought to us by citrus fruit are under attack from a disease called citrus greening, or yellow dragon disease. It's caused by bacteria that cripple citrus trees by choking off their internal circulation system... Enter more sophisticated approaches to interrupting the disease cycle. "We are using genomics to see what genes are being 'expressed' in the psyllids as they feed on the citrus tree," professor David Gang explains. Gang is on the faculty at Washington State University and is a member of a large team of researchers at several institutions researching new responses to citrus greening. The multifaceted effort is funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. [Link](#)

Could You Know More About the Global Food System? (The Daily Meal 6/11). Ever since its establishment, the International Food and Agribusiness Management Association (IFAMA) has hosted an annual conference discussing the global food system — and this year, you're invited. The event will take place in Atlanta, Georgia from June 18-20, and will be streamed online. Confirmed speakers include National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA director Sonny Ramaswamy, DuPont executive vice president James Borel, and Monsanto chairman and CEO Hugh Grant. [Link](#)

Northwest biofuel researchers will have a booth at Paris Air Show (The

Oregonian 6/12). We're not sure how to say "Go Cougs" in French, but biofuel researchers from Washington State University have been invited to attend the 50th annual International Paris Air Show next week. The university will have a booth at the show's Alternative Aviation Fuels Pavilion. Washington State is a member of the Northwest Advanced Renewables Alliance (NARA), which is working on biofuel alternatives for U.S. commercial and military jets. Researchers, funded by a \$40 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, are exploring using wood waste and other products to make aviation fuel. [Link](#)

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